PLAN BELIZE 2.0

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THE BLUE FORUM

Knowledge, Innovation, & Action

For Belize's Ocean & Thriving Blue Economy

"We are not simply protecting our ocean; we are securing our future. Yes, we are conserving nature while building an economy that will stand the test of time. Let this forum be the spark that ignites bold partnerships, transformative ideas, and a shared commitment to a thriving Blue Economy. Together, let us chart a course toward a future where Belize's name is synonymous with ocean leadership, prosperity, and resilience."

– PM John Briceño, Keynote Remarks

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Pre & Primary School Inaugurated in Gales Point Manatee
Let's Talk Menopause | CSME Border Control Programme

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PM Briceño Hands to Northern Regional

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New Local Government Min. Marin Annual Review of Local Governments

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ICT DONATION

Strengthening Belize's Justice System

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COAST GUARD'S 9TH ANNUAL WONDER WOMAN COMPETITION

Police and BDF Participate

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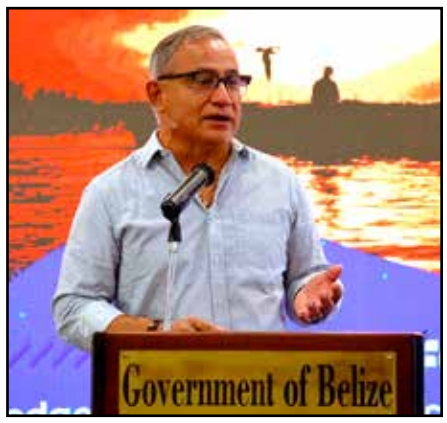
World Health Day: "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures."

"BLUE ECONOMY: RESOURCES FOR NOW AND FUTURE GENERATIONS "

A New Mandate of PlanBelize 2.0!

"For most of history man had to fight with nature to survive, in these last centuries he is beginning to realize that in order to survive, he must protect it", Jacques Cousteau.

The Blue Forum: Knowledge, Innovation and Action for Belize's Ocean and Thriving Blue Economy, a two-day event was hosted with collaboration by the Government of Belize (GOB) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), at the Belize Biltmore Plaza in Belize City on Monday 31st of March and Tuesday the 1st April. "It was a gathering of minds and hearts united by a shared mission to safeguard and elevate the lifeblood of our nation: our ocean", were the echoing words of Narda Garcia, CEO, Office of the Prime Minister, Investment and Civil Aviation. Beverly Wade, CEO of the Blue Economy and Marine Conservation considers the forum as a call to action. Wade said "It is a call to action for us to collectively put our efforts together to help us to continue to chart a way for a successful Blue Economy in Belize that is really based on science, informed decision making and that we have people central to the discussions." Prime Minister, John Briceño in his keynote address emphasized that the Forum is "A cause which will shape a future where Belize's marine wealth is not only protected but harnessed to uplift every Belizean, creating prosperity that is sustainable, inclusive and enduring."



The People's United Party (PUP) Government has always been a leader at the helm of the conservation and sustainable development of Belize's natural resources. A government that was the pioneer of the integration of economics and conservation, brokering the world-renowned Blue Bond for conservation initiative with The Nature Conservancy. Through the realization of the Blue Bond Belize's public debt was reduced by 500 million dollars with the projection over the next twenty years of funds earmarked to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to support sustainable marine life and coastal communities.

This two-day Blue Forum brought together stakeholders from across a myriad of sectors, including policymakers, scientists, entrepreneurs, academia and advocates, the conservation sector and government agencies that are responsible for Belize's marine resources. Since its inception, Belize has been lauded for the successful negotiations in the pursuit of the Blue Bond, positioning itself as a global leader in marine conservation and innovative financing. This was the crux of the conversation at the Forum. During the meeting, there were discussions on science-driven ocean management including the role of scientific research as it relates to the area of conservation in building a sustainable and resilient marine ecosystem. The gathering of minds and hearts was not just to discuss, but to ignite transformative change, underscored by CEO Garcia.

A reset of sorts building on three pillars: knowledge to deepen our understanding, innovation to reimagine solutions, and actions to turn vision into reality. A vision where prosperity is balanced with the preservation of the ocean's vitality resulting in a thriving blue economy. Importantly, it was Jade Delevaux, Senior Fellow, Natural Capital Project, Stanford who brought a component to the discussion for the development of key performance indicators which are the metrics that would be utilized to track Belize's performance. Delevaux proffered, "So Belize has been positioning itself in innovative resolve-based clients such as the Blue Bond and the project finance for permanence and as a part of those innovative finance mechanism it needs to set up key performance indicators and targets to demonstrate that it is meeting its goals." Nonetheless, CEO Wade "We have done a lot in Belize, we have done a lot from a development perspective, from a conservation perspective and also to see how we can find a balance between conservation and economic growth, responsible economic growth." However, PM Briceño appealed to the audience to look beyond what has already been achieved and to envision "what is still possible", recognizing the importance of the multilateral inputs to achieving the development goals. Stating that" Through collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and strategic partnership, we can continue to elevate Belize's leadership in marine conservation and Blue Economy development."

Central to the Forum is the underpinning of the new mandate embedded in PlanBelize 2.0, Blue Economy: Resources for Now and Future Generations, a renewed strategy for national transformation, which recognizes that the Blue Economy is not a sector in isolation but a cornerstone to the country's economic future. "Now is the time for fearless leadership" were the resounding words of the Prime Minister, John Briceño.

By Hilly Bennett

Government of BELIZE

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www.pressoffice.gov.bz

Cabinet Brief

Belmopan. April 3, 2025
The Cabinet met on 1st April 2025..

- Cabinet endorsed the Belize Health Sector Strategic Plan 2025-2034, indicating its support for the plan, which is a comprehensive and transformative roadmap for addressing key health system challenges. This plan will also guide resource allocation, institutional coordination, and performance tracking and establish the monitoring and evaluation framework to ensure accountability and transparency.
- Cabinet gave its approval for a retention package of allowances for nurses employed in the public health system. This will be implemented in phases and should help to retain highly and technically skilled nurses.
- Cabinet gave its approval for the Minister of Public Utilities, Energy, and Logistics, the Minister responsible for water and sewerage, to sign a Statutory Instrument for amendments to the Water Industry (Tariffs) (Amendment) Byelaws to extend the current Full Tariff Period by changing the commencement date from 1st April 2025 to 1st April 2026 and to provide that the existing tariffs, fees, and charges remain in effect until 31st March 2026.
- Cabinet considered the question of re-divisioning of electoral divisions. Cabinet confirmed its earlier decision that the proposals presented by the Elections and Boundaries Commission in 2023 were unworkable and did not satisfy the requirements of the Constitution.
- Cabinet requested the Minister responsible for elections and the Attorney General to liaise with the Elections and Boundaries Commission on any constitutional amendments needed to undertake a re-divisioning exercise.
- Cabinet agreed to facilitate the Commission to ensure that the re-divisioning exercise will be completed within one year.
- Cabinet approved proposed legislative amendments to the Belize Building Codes to reflect the natural conditions and building environment of Belize. These amendments would enhance Belize's building infrastructure by mitigating vulnerabilities, fortifying the governance framework, and establishing a comprehensive set of quality building parameters encompassing public health, safety, and environmental protection.
- Cabinet approved the tabling of a legislative amendment to the Central Bank of Belize Act to include the Director General of the Financial Services Commission (FSC) as a member of the Board of Directors of the Central Bank of Belize.
- With a view to enhance land tax collection and enforcement, Cabinet gave its approval for the transfer of responsibility for Land Tax collection to the Belize Tax Service (BTS) through a phased one-year transition process involving inter-agency coordination between the BTS, Lands Department, and other relevant authorities and the use of the online IRIS platform for assessment, billing, and collection thereof.
- Cabinet approved the Policy on the Preparation of a Fiscal Strategy Plan and a Disaster Risk Financing Policy and Implementation Plan as part of the World Bank's International Development Association's (IDA) Sustainable Development Policy.

Finally, Cabinet reminds all Belizeans to drive carefully and buckle up for safety.

Ends

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EDITORIAL

AN ECONOMY ON THE RIGHT TRACK

The people of Belize have greater purchasing power. The quality of life improved in Belize after November 2020. In General Election polls, people record their level of satisfaction with how the economy has affected their lives. Can I pay my light and water bills quickly? Can I provide food for my children daily? Is my job secure? Belizeans then question their other personal concerns. When will I get my land? How will I build a house for my children? These questions also revolve around the accessibility/affordability of education for their children and the accessibility/affordability of health care. In March 2025, the people of Belize voted for planBelize's booming economy. Also, they endorsed John Briceño's planBelize 2.0 team to an unprecedented second consecutive term with a parliamentary supermajority.

It is clear that the new returning administration has an unprecedented responsibility to maintain a high level of economic success while setting and achieving new targets. The 21 schools with free tuition and more, the under three per cent unemployment rate, the free health clinics, the GST-free weekends, the 5-dollar minimum wage, the income tax relief for thousands, the fuel subsidies, the lower debt, the record high GDP, the Blue Bond, and the lower crime rate are all in planBelize's past. The people are looking to see what is next, and the onus is on planBelize 2.0 to create an environment for more jobs, businesses, and even more winners in Belize.

While shoppers thronged to the stores in December 2024, revealing the real power of Belize's economy, the Gross Domestic Product, which Belize produces, was equally performing at 7.1 per cent higher. During that same period, the fourth quarter, World GDP in 2024 was at a 'slowdown' of 1.7 per cent. The Belizean people led by planBelize are still expecting no less than an increase in better jobs, even more access to the National Health Insurance, more schools with free education, more land and housing, more efficient industries vis-à-vis better sugar prices, shrimp, fishing, citrus, cattle, and bananas, bolstered by a larger scale Blue Economy, Orange Economy, and diversified agriculture with cocoa, rice, coconuts, sorghum, corn, and others. As we travel the country, our eyes will attest to the veracity of the statistics showing increased construction levels and the record number of tourist arrivals. Tourism needs more and better accommodation, which leads to better food, electricity and water demands. Our utilities have been growing not by accident but with the deal-making ability of the Briceño administration, which ensures that the lights are on and that water flows even more efficiently. The 131.1 thousand overnight tourist arrivals in the 4th quarter of 2024 are record-setting, beating the previous high from 2019. Belize is the place to be, so say our guests and, more importantly, our citizens.

As 2025 moves forward, inflation continues downward while the government continues battling the world economic forces, keeping our food prices up. While world inflation is close to 4 per cent, Belize manages at 1.5 per cent. The reality of the cost of living today is that since 2020, multidimensional poverty has decreased from 37 per cent to 22 per cent. Poverty is one of planBelize's targets for eradication. Prime Minister John Briceño and planBelize 2.0 are about serving the people and building Belize. Today, the People's United Party considers the affordability and accessibility of education, jobs, land, housing, and health care as key to ending poverty in Belize. That is what Todos Ganamos means; the people have signalled that Belize and planBelize are on the right track. ¡Vamos Bien!, they said loudly and clearly.

en Español

UNA ECONOMÍA EN EL BUEN CAMINO

El pueblo de Belice tiene un mayor poder adquisitivo. La calidad de vida mejoró en Belice después de noviembre de 2020. En las encuestas de las Elecciones Generales, la gente registra su nivel de satisfacción sobre cómo la economía ha afectado a sus vidas. ¿Puedo pagar rápidamente mis facturas de luz y agua? ¿Puedo dar de comer a mis hijos a diario? ¿Es seguro mi trabajo? A continuación, los beliceños cuestionan sus otras preocupaciones personales. ¿Cuándo tendré mi tierra? ¿Cómo construiré una casa para mis hijos? Estas preguntas también giran en torno a la accesibilidad/asequibilidad de la educación para sus hijos y la accesibilidad/asequibilidad de la atención sanitaria. En marzo de 2025, los ciudadanos de Belice votaron a favor de la floreciente economía de PlanBelice. Además, respaldaron al equipo de planBelice 2.0 de John Briceño para un segundo mandato consecutivo sin precedentes con una super mayoría parlamentaria.

Está claro que la nueva administración que regresa tiene la responsabilidad sin precedentes de mantener un alto nivel de éxito económico al tiempo que establece y alcanza nuevos objetivos. Las 21 escuelas con matrícula gratuita y más, la tasa de desempleo por debajo del 3%, las clínicas de salud gratuitas, los fines de semana sin GST, el salario mínimo de 5 dólares, la reducción del impuesto sobre la renta para miles de personas, las subvenciones al combustible, la menor deuda, el PIB récord, el Bono Azul y el menor índice de delincuencia forman parte del pasado de planBelice. La gente está deseando ver qué es lo siguiente, y el planBelice 2.0 tiene la responsabilidad de crear un entorno propicio para la creación de más puestos de trabajo, empresas e incluso más ganadores en Belice.

Mientras los compradores se agolpaban en las tiendas en diciembre de 2024, revelando el poder verdadero de la economía de Belice, el Producto Interior Bruto, lo que Belice produce, rendía igualmente un 7,1% más. Durante ese mismo período, el cuarto trimestre, el PIB mundial en 2024 se encontraba en una «desaceleración» del 1,7%. El pueblo beliceño, liderado por planBelice, sigue esperando nada menos que un aumento de mejores empleos, aún más acceso al Seguro Nacional de Salud, más escuelas con educación gratuita, más tierras y viviendas, industrias más eficientes frente a mejores precios del azúcar, camarones, pesca, cítricos, ganado y bananas, reforzadas por una Economía Azul a mayor escala, Economía Naranja y una agricultura diversificada con cacao, arroz, cocos, sorgo, maíz y otros. Al recorrer el país, nuestros ojos darán fe de la veracidad de las estadísticas que muestran el aumento de los niveles de construcción y el récord de llegadas de turistas. El turismo necesita más y mejores alojamientos, lo que conlleva una mayor demanda de alimentos, electricidad y agua. Nuestros servicios públicos han crecido no por accidente, sino con la habilidad negociadora de la administración Briceño, que asegura que las luces estén encendidas y que el agua fluya aún más eficientemente. Las 131,1 mil llegadas de turistas que pernoctaron en el cuarto trimestre de 2024 marcan un récord, superando el máximo anterior de 2019. Belice es el lugar donde hay que estar, eso dicen nuestros huéspedes y, lo que es más importante, nuestros ciudadanos.

A medida que avanza 2025, la inflación sigue bajando mientras el Gobierno continúa luchando contra las fuerzas económicas mundiales, manteniendo nuestros precios de los alimentos al alza. Mientras la inflación mundial se acerca al 4%, Belice se las arregla con un 1,5%. La realidad del coste de la vida actual es que, desde 2020, la pobreza multidimensional ha disminuido del 37% al 22%. La pobreza es uno de los objetivos de planBelice para su erradicación. El primer ministro John Briceño y el planBelice 2.0 pretenden servir a la gente y construir Belice. Hoy, el Partido Unido del Pueblo considera que la asequibilidad y la accesibilidad de la educación, el empleo, la tierra, la vivienda y la atención sanitaria son fundamentales para acabar con la pobreza en Belice. Eso es lo que significa Todos Ganamos; el pueblo ha señalado que Belice y planBelice van por el buen camino. «Vamos Bien», dijeron fuerte y claramente.

OPENING REMARKS

The Blue Forum: Knowledge, Innovation, and Action for Belize's Ocean and Thriving Blue Economy

NARDA GARCIA, CEO

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, INVESTMENT AND CIVIL AVIATION

APRIL 1, 2025

Good morning, distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues, community leaders, and cherished custodians of Belize's natural heritage. Welcome to The Blue Forum: Knowledge, Innovation, and Action for Belize's Ocean and Thriving Blue Economy. It is an honour to stand before you today in this gathering of minds and hearts united by a shared mission—to safeguard and elevate the lifeblood of our nation: our ocean.

To our policymakers, scientists, entrepreneurs, educators, and advocates—both local and international—thank you for joining us. Your presence here reflects a collective commitment to charting a sustainable future for Belize's marine ecosystems and the communities they sustain.

Today, we convene not just to discuss, but to ignite transformative change. Our theme underscores three pillars: knowledge to deepen our understanding, innovation to reimagine solutions, and action to turn vision into reality. These pillars are the compass guiding Belize toward a thriving blue economy—one that balances prosperity with the preservation of our ocean's vitality."

Belize is a nation cradled by the Caribbean Sea, home to the majestic Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our reefs, our 3 atolls, mangroves, and seagrass beds are not just ecological treasures—they are the foundation of our livelihoods, culture, and identity. Yet, climate change, pollution, and unsustainable practices threaten this legacy. The urgency to act has never been greater.

This is why we have made decisive strides to safeguard our marine environment while fostering sustainable economic opportunities. Through groundbreaking initiatives like the Blue Bond, Belize has showcased global leadership by effectively integrating marine conservation with long-term financial resilience. We have demonstrated that conservation and economic growth are not conflicting goals but rather complementary foundations of a prosperous Blue Economy, which along with the Green and Orange economies are identified as key pillars in Belize's trajectory towards a nature positive economy that is people centered.

As Sylvia Earle, an American, a world-renowned expert in Marine Biology and Oceanographer quoted "No water, no life. No blue, no green"

This Forum is a testament to the power of unity. By weaving together traditional wisdom, scientific breakthroughs, and cutting-edge innovation, we can pioneer strategies that respect both nature and progress. Let us also recognize the invaluable role of indigenous and coastal communities, whose ancestral knowledge is a beacon in our quest for sustainability."

Over these days, may we forge partnerships, share bold ideas, and commit to policies that prioritize ocean health. Let us envision a Belize where marine conservation fuels economic resilience—where sustainable tourism, fisheries, and renewable energy drive growth without compromising our ecosystems.

To the organizers, sponsors, and partners—thank you for making this dialogue possible. As we embark on this journey, let us remember: the ocean is not a resource to be exploited, but a legacy to be cherished. Together, let us rise as stewards/guardians of the blue, ensuring that future generations inherit a Belize as vibrant and bountiful as the one we cherish today.

Today, I want to leave you with an excellent quote by the famous Jacques Cousteau, who in 1971, experienced the bounty of our blue space—more specifically, the famous Blue Hole. He says "For most of history, man had to fight with nature to survive, in these last centuries, he is beginning to realize that in order to survive, he must protect it.

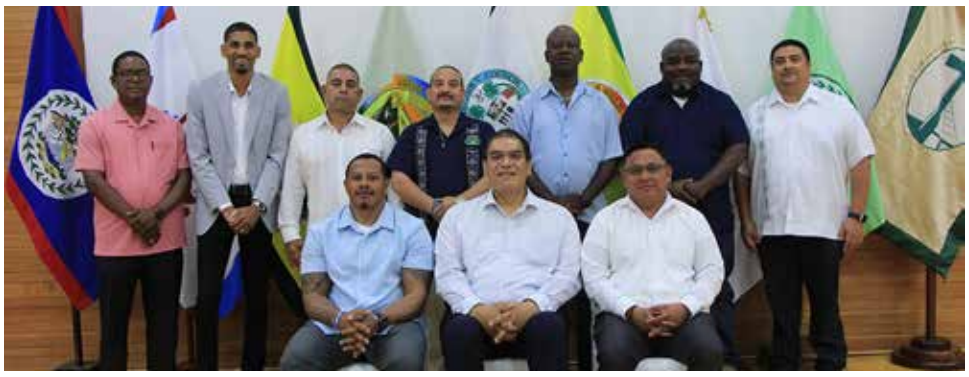
On behalf of the Office of the Prime Minister, I thank you for your dedication and commitment. Let us use this time wisely and let us leave this forum not only with ideas but with concrete actions that will shape the future of Belize's ocean for nature and people.

May our discussions be dynamic, our collaborations enduring, and our actions impactful. Thank you, and let's dive in!"

PPE GOWNS FOR NORTHERN REGIONAL

Prime Minister John Briceno and the Minister of Health visited the Northern Regional Hospital, where the Prime Minister handed over 14,000 gowns to be used as PPE in the hospital, made possible through a generous donation from the Straughan Foundation. They also discussed further plans to enhance healthcare in the northern region.

Department of Local Government
ANNUAL REVIEW SESSION



March 27 - The Department of Local Government hosted Mayors, Town & City Administrators, Revenue Managers, Finance Directors, and Accountants from all municipalities for an Annual Review Session (ARS).

This session provided an opportunity to review financial performance, highlight key achievements, identify challenges, and explore solutions for the continued growth and sustainable development of our municipalities. Additionally, it fostered networking and collaboration among local government leaders and among all participants.

A key highlight of the session was the introduction of Hon. Florencio Marin, Jr., the new Minister of Local Government, reaffirming the Ministry's commitment to good governance, transparency, and the strengthening of local government structures across Belize.

The Belize City Council was proud to join their sister municipalities at this ARS. In the FB page, the BCC expressed that the important gathering brought together Mayors, City and Town Administrators, Revenue Managers, Finance Directors, and Accountants from across the country to reflect on our collective financial performance, share best practices, and engage in forward-thinking dialogue on the future of local governance in Belize. Key highlights for Belize City emerging from this session included the following milestones from our performance over the past year:

Consistency in Transparency – leading in the regular submission and public posting of Council meeting minutes.

Innovation in Urban Management – pioneering the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to support smarter city planning and service delivery.

Prudent Financial Stewardship – maintaining the lowest emolument-to-revenue ratio.

Enhanced Communication – standing out for developing and publishing a monthly newsletter, strengthening engagement with both residents and development partners.

The Belize City Deputy Mayor Eluide Miller delivered the closing address on behalf of the Belize City Council, reaffirming our commitment to accountability, innovation and collaboration as we continue building a more inclusive and resilient Belize City.

We thank the Department of Local Government for creating this space to connect, learn, and grow—together.

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

Loma Luz Boulevard, Santa Elena, Cayo District.

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. Sales currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.

1. Parcel No. 1173 off Loma Luz Boulevard, Santa Elena, Cayo District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Santa Elena/Cayo	23	1173
The freehold property of Mr. Gianni Jerald Castillo.		

2. Parcel No. 1174 Loma Luz Boulevard, Santa Elena, Cayo District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Santa Elena/Cayo	23	1174
The freehold property of Ms. Ronda Mae Castillo.		

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
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NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER 6/2025

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be $83,200,000.00

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository (CSD) of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of $200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Tuesday, 22 April 2025 and will be redeemed on Tuesday, 22 July 2025.

Each tender must be for $200 or a multiple of $200 and must specify to five decimal places the amount, which is offered for each one hundred dollars face value of the Bills sought.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to bids@centralbank.org.bz or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 11 April 2025.

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Tuesday 22 April 2025.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement System of Belize (APSSS).

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GLICORP0402627

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.central-bank.org.bz)

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES & VEHICLE

Consejo Village, Corozal District; Belize City, Belize District: Placencia North, Stann Creek District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties and vehicle. Sales currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties and vehicle are sold.

1. Parcel 2115 No. 6 Placencia North, Stann Creek District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Placencia North	36	2115
Freehold property of Mr. Dustin Bowen & Mrs. Jodie Bowen		

2. Parcel No. 418 Consejo Village, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Consejo	1	418
Freehold property of Mr. Antonio Gutierrez.		

3. Vehicle

2016 Nissan Frontier 4*4 Pickup

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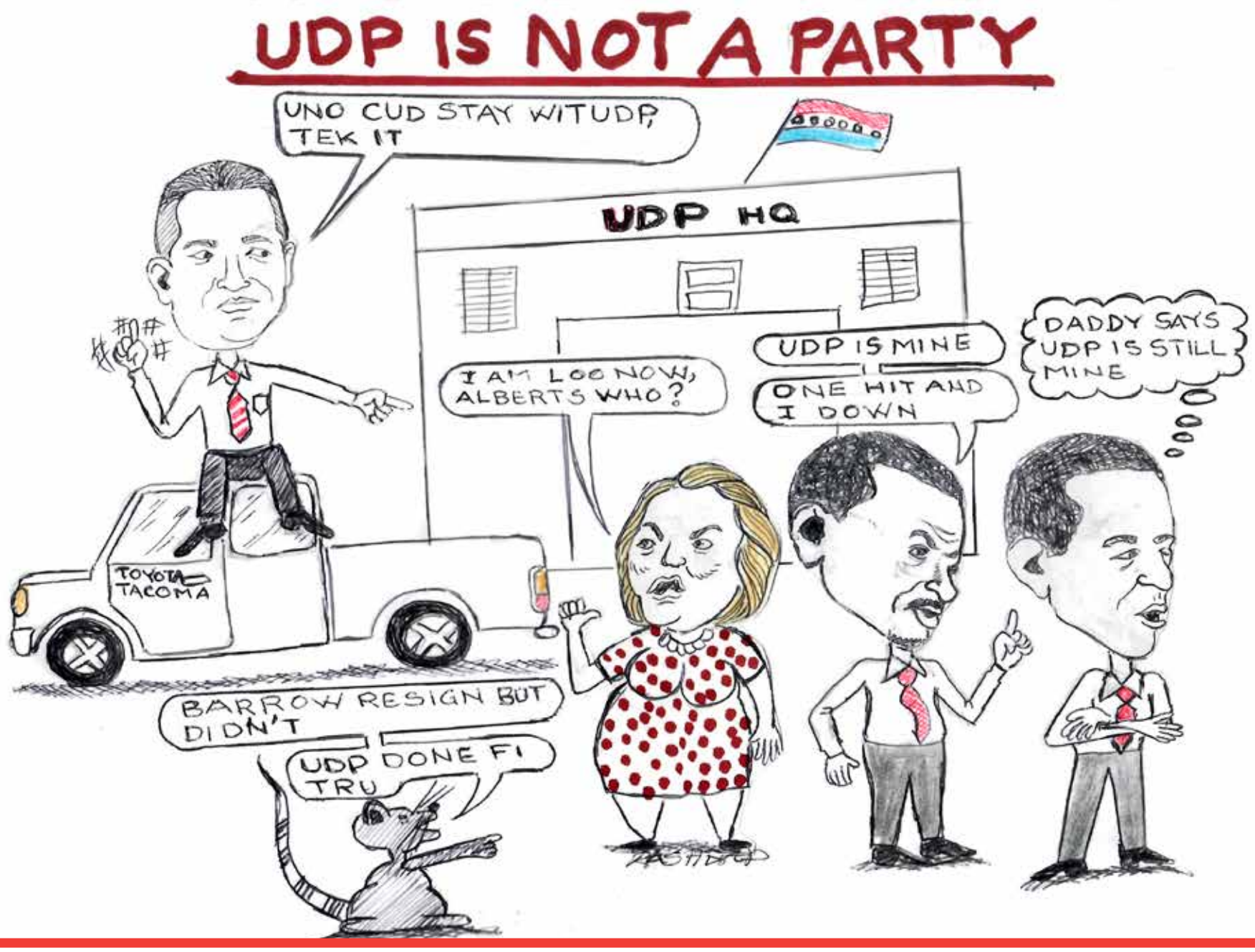
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DADDY SAYS UDP IS STILL MINE
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BARROW RESIGN BUT DI DN'T
UDP DONE FI TRU

Keynote Remarks
Prime Minister
John Briceño

The Blue Forum: Knowledge, Innovation, and Action for Belize's Ocean and Thriving Blue Economy.

April 1, 2025

Good morning.

It's a good day today, not just because of our forum, but more so because of what we have done together. *This Blue Forum is about Knowledge, Innovation, and Action for Belize's Ocean and Thriving Blue Economy.* We gather for more than a celebration of our progress; but to testify about our shared commitment to the sustainable management and conservation of Belize's vast marine resources. And we take advantage of this opportunity to gather as like-minded people to rally behind this just cause. A cause which will shape a future where Belize's marine wealth is not only protected but harnessed to uplift every Belizean, creating prosperity that is sustainable, inclusive, and enduring.

My friends, Belize's story is one of bold action. At a time when the world faces the mounting threats of climate change, ocean degradation, and economic uncertainty, our nation has chosen leadership over hesitation, innovation over stagnation, and collective vision over short-term gains. Through our pioneering *Blue Bond Deal,* Belize has redefined what is possible, proving that economic resilience and environmental stewardship are not opposing forces, but powerful allies.

Today, we come together to reflect on our journey, highlight our successes, and chart the course ahead. As a nation renowned for its leadership in marine conservation and good stewardship of its blue resources, Belize has continuously set the standard for how a small country can lead with decisive action, groundbreaking innovation, and strategic collaboration. Today, I invite you to look beyond what we have already achieved and envision what is still possible. Imagine a Belize where our Blue Space fuels, not only our traditions and livelihoods, but also new frontiers of opportunity. A Belize where fishermen and other resource users become conservation champions, where cutting-edge marine science drives policy, and where our young people see the Blue Economy, not just as an industry, but as a future filled with promise and prosperity. This is not a distant dream, it is a reality that we are building, step by step, through strategic action, strong governance, and the unwavering commitment of our people.

Science and innovation will continue to be the foundation of our success. Belize's approach has been rooted in data-driven policies that leverage cutting-edge science, traditional knowledge, and collaborative research. We have embraced an evidence-based approach to conservation that enhances our ability to manage resources responsibly. Through initiatives like *the Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan, the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan, and Natural Capital Accounting,* we are ensuring that every decision we make is backed by the best available knowledge, protecting our ecosystems while creating sustainable economic opportunities.

However, science and policy alone are not enough to safeguard our marine environment. Our greatest resource is our people! The coastal communities, fishers, entrepreneurs, tourism operators, women and youth are at the heart of our blue economy. Their voices, their wisdom, and their participation are essential. When communities are empowered with information, skills, and financial support, they do more than sustain themselves. They become the guardians of our marine future, and we foster a culture of stewardship that strengthens the sustainability of Belize's Blue Economy. A thriving Blue Economy cannot be built just on goodwill. It requires smart, long-term investments. We saw this first hand in the *Blue Bond*. We continue our efforts to bring long-term funding to support conservation while ensuring economic prosperity for our people though our *Project Finance for Permanence: Resilient Bold Belize.*

Of course, we must go even further. We must explore new frontiers of funding, leveraging impact investment, forging public-private partnerships, and unlocking the value of sustainable tourism, blue carbon, and marine biotechnology. The ocean is not just a resource; it is an economy waiting to be unlocked. The choices we make today will determine whether Belize leads in this space or lags behind. We cannot achieve our vision for a thriving blue economy, secured livelihoods and healthy oceans alone. Our bilateral and multilateral development partners, many of whom are represented here today, play a fundamental role in advancing Belize's climate and marine conservation ambitions. We also recognize the critical support from our bilateral partners that have helped propel our conservation and blue growth initiatives forward. Through these alliances, we will mobilize critical resources, implement pioneering conservation finance models, and create innovative solutions that align with our national development goals.

Plan Belize 2.0, our renewed strategy for national transformation, recognizes that the Blue Economy is not a sector in isolation but a cornerstone of our economic future. We cannot ignore the tremendous impact Climate Change has been having on our marine ecosystems. Belize has recorded some of the highest ocean temperatures in history leading to record bleaching events and made our reefs more vulnerable to diseases. Our response must be bold and unwavering. Resilience must be at the core of our conservation and development efforts. Through habitat restoration, ocean modelling, and adaptive management, we will safeguard Belize's marine resources.

Ladies and gentlemen now is the time for ambition. Now is the time for fearless leadership. *The Blue Forum* is more than an event, it is a declaration that Belize is ready to shape the future of ocean governance, not just for us but as a model for the world. Through collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and strategic partnerships, we can continue to elevate Belize's leadership in marine conservation and Blue Economy development.

To our policymakers, may this forum ignite bold proposals that cements Belize's agenda for a healthy, productive ocean space and as a global leader in marine conservation and innovation.

To our scientists, may your research continue to guide us with precision and purpose.

To our communities, may you know that you are not bystanders, but the very architects of our sustainable blue economy.

And to our international partners, may you see in Belize a beacon of hope and a nation worth investing in.

We are not simply protecting our ocean; we are securing our future. Yes, we are conserving nature while building an economy that will stand the test of time. Let this forum be the spark that ignites bold partnerships, transformative ideas, and a shared commitment to a thriving Blue Economy. Together, let us chart a course toward a future where Belize's name is synonymous with ocean leadership, prosperity, and resilience.

I Thank You

COAST GUARD'S 9TH ANNUAL

WONDER WOMAN COMPETITION

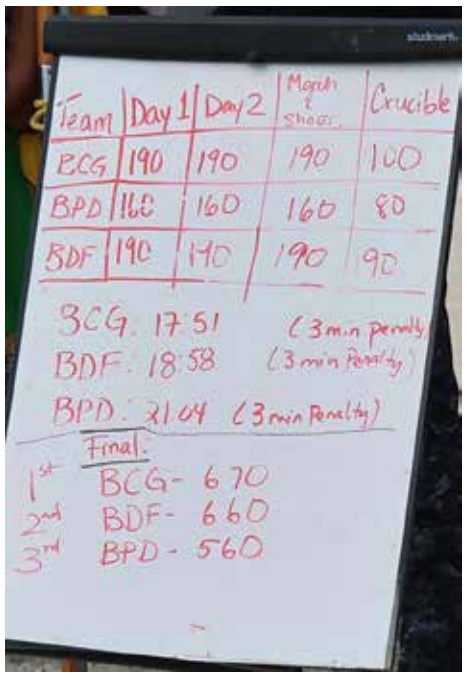
Over the past three days, the Belize Coast Guard (BCG), the Belize Police Department (BPD), and the Belize Defense Force (BDF) commemorated Women's Month by participating in the Coast Guard's 9th Annual Wonder Woman Competition, the only event of its kind in Belize. This intense 3-day event that began on the morning of 26th of March was held at the BCG Headquarters.

It was established to promote inclusivity, female empowerment, and excellence in combat readiness, the competition features rigorous physical and mental challenges designed to test leadership, fitness, marksmanship, and teamwork among national law enforcement agencies.

Teams from the BCG, the Police, and the BDF competed against each other, with the BCG team securing first place, narrowly surpassing the defending champions, the BDF. The Police team placed third.

So after three days of running, swimming, pulling, pushing, carrying, jumping, climbing, shooting, the Belize Coast Guard came out victorious in the most competitive competition we have seen. The final event, the CRUCIBLE was the deciding factor after the BDF and Coast Guard alternated the lead since the start of the competition on Wednesday. Team Police brought a very impressive fight and energetic fans and demonstrated a high level of competitive spirit.

Our women across the Security Services are outstanding!


Team | Day 1 | Day 2 | Mgath & Shoot | Crucible
BCG | 190 | 190 | 190 | 100
BPD | 160 | 160 | 160 | 80
BDF | 190 | 170 | 190 | 90
BCG. 17:51 (3 min penalty)
BDF. 18:58 (3 min Penalty)
BPD. 21:04 (3 min Penalty)
Final.
1st BCG- 670
2nd BDF- 660
3rd BPD- 560

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
BELIZE

APPLICATION FOR A TELECOMMUNICATIONS LICENCE NOTICE

The **Belize Water Services Ltd. of Belize City, Belize,** hereby informs the public that pursuant to the Telecommunications (Licensing Classification, Authorisation, and Fee Structure) Regulations, 2020, as amended from time to time, has applied to the **Public Utilities Commission** (PUC) for the **GRANT** of **Domestic Private Network I** Class Licence.

Interested parties are invited to submit comments or objections on this application within two (2) weeks of this publication. Comments or objections are to be emailed to telecom@puc.bz

Viewing of Application for the Telecommunications Licence:

Members of the public and all other interested parties may view the application along with associated information at the offices of the **Public Utilities Commission, 2nd Floor Marina Towers, Belize City** or at the offices of **Belize Water Services** Ltd. at 7 Central American Boulevard, Belize City.

Belize Hosts CSME National Border Control Officers Attachment Programme

March 31, 2025Belize is hosting the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) National Border Control Officers Attachment Programme. This programme was made possible by the generous support of the Eleventh European Development Fund (EDF) under the "Strengthening the Framework of CARICOM Integration and Cooperation Process" (SFCICP) Programme.

Ambassador Amalia Mai, Chief Executive Officer for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Culture in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Culture, and Immigration, delivered the welcoming remarks, emphasizing the growing significance of border control officers in facilitating seamless trade and travel while safeguarding regional security. She highlighted that this programme is designed to equip participants with the essential knowledge, skills, and tools to excel in this critical role. She also emphasized that Belize remains committed to fostering an exchange of experiences, promoting mutual learning and growth. Ambassador Mai encouraged the participants to enjoy the food and warmth of Belize.

Ms. Shona Quammi, Project Officer for Finance at the CARICOM Secretariat, reinforced the importance of sharing best practices across Member States to advance regional integration.

By highlighting the role of youth in policy development, Ms. Marissa Cervantes, the CARICOM Youth Ambassador, emphasized the need for young people to be actively involved in decision-making, innovation, and advocacy.

Belize is the first CARICOM Member State to host this week-long initiative, which will be replicated in other Member States in the coming weeks. Delivering the keynote address at the inaugural ceremony, Hon. Marconi Leal Jr., Minister of State for Foreign Trade, underscored the vital role of border officials in today's interconnected world. He highlighted their role in tourism, security, administrative efficiency, trade, and economic growth. Despite challenges such as the COVID- 19 pandemic, climate change, and geopolitical uncertainties, particularly from the north, history has shown that adversity brings opportunities for growth. (release)

Pre & Primary School Inaugurated in Gales Point Manatee

Last year on April 10th, the Government of Belize broke ground for the Gales Point Manatee Preschool Substitution and Rehabilitation of the Primary School Sub-Project. This upgrade was valued at BZD$1.15M, and funded through the partnership of GOB and the Caribbean Development Bank. Today April 4 the project was inaugurated to much applause and gratitude by the residents including the children on course. Present at the inauguration were Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Science & Technology, Area Representative Dolores Balderamos Garcia, CEO in the Office of the Prime Minister and officials of the Belize Social Investment Fund.

The implementing agency, the Belize Social Investment Fund, oversaw the construction of the Pre-School building, the rehabilitation of the existing primary school building, and a chain-link fence to provide security for the entire school compound.

So now April 3, 2025, a few days short of a year the completed construction was inaugurated bringing it officially to full use as the Primary school was already in use. It is now equipped with a modern lavatory annex, ensuring a healthier and more comfortable learning environment for students. Additionally, the brand-new preschool has been constructed, giving young children a strong educational foundation thus preparing them for the future.

Atlantic Bank

Holiday Opening Hours

The public is advised that all Atlantic Bank Branches and Drive Thrus will be closed for business at 1:00 PM on Holy Thursday, April 17, 2025.

All branches and drive thrus will reopen on Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

UNDP-Belize - European Union

COMMUNITY REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT WITH ICT EQUIPMENT

March 28, 2025 – In a significant step towards strengthening Belize's justice system, the Community Rehabilitation Department has received essential Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment valued at BZD$95,396.00. This initiative is part of the PACE Justice Project, funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project aims to enhance the capacity of the Adult Probation Unit by improving case management in Adult Alternative Sentencing.

This initiative aligns with the recent Alternative Sentencing Act, 2024, which seeks to address critical challenges within the Belizean criminal justice system, including prison overcrowding, case backlogs, and the limited availability of non-custodial sentencing options. The Act prioritizes alternative sentencing mechanisms such as probation services, which focus on rehabilitation, supervision, and community reintegration, offering a more effective approach to justice for low-risk offenders.

Mr. Michael Lund, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP, and Mrs. Roxanna Aleman- Richards, Inclusive Growth, Digitization, and Governance Project Analyst, officially handed over the 34 All-in-One Desktops and 10 Printers/Scanners to CEO Adele Catzim-Sanchez, on behalf of the Community Rehabilitation Department. These resources will equip 34 Social Workers and 10 Intake Officers, enabling them to digitize records, streamline documentation, and improve overall efficiency in managing probation cases.

The PACE Justice Project, under which this initiative is implemented, remains a crucial component of Belize's justice system modernization efforts. By leveraging digital solutions and alternative sentencing mechanisms, Belize continues to advance toward a more efficient, rehabilitative, and just legal framework. (release)

Let's Talk Menopause

The inaugural Let's Talk Menopause Forum was held on Thursday March 27. The event featured a panel of five specialists, including a gynecologist, nutritionist, psychologist, the Director of MOHW, and special guest H.E. Dame Froyla Tzalam, Governor General of Belize.

They engaged men and women of all ages in discussions on menopause, its symptoms, management strategies, and ways to offer support. The forum concluded with a Q&A session, giving the audience an opportunity to ask panelists personal questions about menopause.

This initiative, made possible through collaboration of the Office of the Special Envoy, the Ministry of Health & Wellness (MOHW), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, empowers women and promotes a more inclusive and supportive work environment. With women making up nearly 50% of Belize's workforce, raising awareness and educating the public on this topic is crucial.

Notice of Employment:

Dr. Amin Hegar of Belize Vision Center has an available post for a Retinologist eye specialist to practice at his clinic at # 9 Daly Street, Belize City. Call 610-2293 for more information.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES:

Notice is hereby given that **Kenan E. DeLeon/Lisa L. DeLeon** are applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"L & K's Cocktail Twist"** located at # 3775 Pelican Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Hua Yan Zhen** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Marcelo Restaurante"** located at Cor. Diaz & Kennedy Streets, Benque Viejo Del Carmen, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

BELIZE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES LTD.

Fi WE Boledo!

March 20, 2025

Public Notice

Relocation of Live Boledo, Ordinary & Jackpot Lottery Drawings

The Belize Government Lotteries Ltd. hereby advises the public that effective Sunday, April 27, 2025, the LIVE drawing of the Belize government lottery games; including Boledo, Ordinary Lottery and Jackpot Lottery will be relocated to the City of Belmopan.

The administrative office and all staff of the Belize Government Lotteries Ltd. are located in Belmopan. As a result, the relocation is being carried out to increase efficiency as well as to reduce the risk for the suspension of any future drawings due to the vulnerability of hurricanes and flooding in Belize City.

Belize Government Lotteries Ltd. assures the public that all protocols will continue as per usual. These protocols include:

- **Weighing of balls before and after each drawing**
- **Witnessing of ball weighing by an auditor from the auditing firm of Coye & Associates as well as an officer from the Treasury Department or other Senior Public Service Office to ensure that the weights are within the acceptable weight range as per international guidelines**
- **Conducting of drawings by supervisory personnel from the Treasury Department or other Senior Public Service Officers.**
- **Witnessing of drawing by an auditor representing the auditing firm of Coye & Associates**
- **Live broadcast by Love FM**

The new drawing office will be located inside the Emporium Plaza located at Cor. Rio Grande & Nim Li Punit Street, Belmopan City. Belize Government Lotteries Ltd. further reminds the general public that anyone wishing to attend and witness the live public drawings are always welcome to do so.

Fi we Fun, Fi we Profits, Fi we Boledo

www.lotteries.bz

NOTICE

CZ INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(Reg. # 000001944)

Notice is hereby given that the company named **CZ INTERNATIONAL LIMITED** has been dissolved and struck off the Belize Companies & Corporate Affairs Registry Register with effect from March 24, 2025.

Berkeley Corporate Service Limited
Registered Agent

NOTICE

CZ INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(Reg. # 000001944)

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the company
CZ INTERNATIONAL LIMITED ("the Company") registered under the Belize Companies Act, 2022 commenced dissolution on March 24, 2025;
and
Jose Alberto Homer Santos whose address is 12 Miles Philip Goldson Highway, Belize District, Belize C.A. is the Liquidator of the Company.

Berkeley Corporate Services Limited
Registered Agent

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

PUBLICAUCTIONSALES: PROPERTIES & VEHICLES

Countrywide

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo andChristiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties and vehicles. Salescurrently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties and vehicles are sold.

1. Parcel No. 900 Consejo, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Consejo	1	900
The freehold property of Mr. Narciso Rodriguez.		

2. Parcel No. 32/1 Chan Pine Ridge Village, Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Chan Pine Ridge	4	32/1
The leasehold property of Mr. German Tzul.		

3. Parcel No. 3404 Trail Farm Village, Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Ann Gabourel	4	3404
The freehold property of Mr. Enop Martinez.		

4. Parcel No. 645 Calcutta Village, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Carolina/Calcutta Village	1	645
The freehold property of Mr. Nigel Sanker and Ms. Matilda Shal.		

5. Parcel No. 129 Cahal Pech Hill Road, San Ignacio, Cayo District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Ignacio South	2	129
Freehold Property		

6. Parcel No. 3654 Scalop Avenue (off Coney Drive, Near Body 2000), Belize City, Belize District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Ignacio	23	2364/1
The leasehold property of Mr. Antonio Coyoc.		

7. Parcel No. 4138 Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Ann Gabourel	4	4138
The freehold property of Mr. Elmer Jason Dominguez.		

8.Lot No. 162 Pomona Village, Stann Creek District:

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land situated in Pomona Village, Stann Creek District. The freehold property of Mr. Manuel Esquivel.

9.Lot No. 14 Bladen Street Belmopan City, Cayo District:

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land situated in the City of Belmopan, Cayo District. The freehold property of Ms. Ruby Pascascio and Jesse Garcia

10. Parcel No. 3041 Caribbean Shores, Belize City , Belize District.

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Caribbean Shores	16	3041
The freehold property of Ms. Vanessa Sirias.		

VEHICLES:

2018 Chevy Equinox

2008 Ford Escape

2008 Ford Escape

2010 Dodge Journey

2010 Mercedes- Benz

2019 Nissan Rogue

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auction

PlanBelize 2.0

Prime Minister John Briceño (OW Central)

Opening Blue Forum: Knowledge & Action for Belize's Ocean & Thriving Blue Economy

Collaboration with OWTC continues

Donation of Personal Protective Equipment to Hospital

Hon. Kevin Bernard (OW East)

Appreciation Dinner for Campaigners

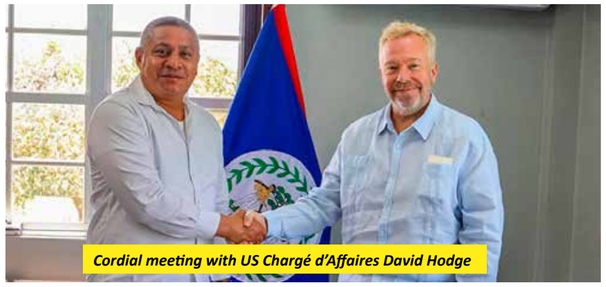
Supporting Sport, Sta. Martha Government School

Min. Florencio Marin (Corozal Southeast) – Local Government

Annual Review Session with Mayors

Hon. Oscar Mira (Belmopan)

Appreciative for Easter preparation



Cordial meeting with US Chargé d'Affaires David Hodge

Walkway projects underway

Hon. Marconi Leal (Belize Rural North)

Sporting Spirit in Belize River Valley

Road Works in Sandhill

Min. Michel Chebat(Cayo North), Public Utilities, Energy & Logistics

High-Level Meeting on Maritime Safety and Security

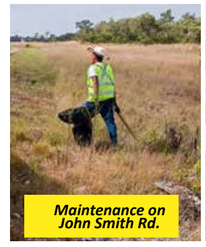
Hon. Andre Perez w/ MoS Ramirez, Mayor Nunez

Looking out for the Environment of SP and Caye Caulker

Min. Julius Espat(Cayo South), MIDH ALL OVER BELIZE

Armenia water system in process

Major work on Trio Bridge, Toledo



Maintenance on John Smith Rd.

Work on Philip Goldson Highway

On Salvador Fernandez Bridge, Cayo

right on track

'Vamos Bien In 2025'

vamos bien

Flood Relief in Port Loyola

Hon. Gilroy Usher Leads High Level Visit To End The Terrible Inconvenience Of Heavy Flooding

Last week, Hon. Gilroy Usher, Area Representative for Port Loyola, and Victor Menjivar senior engineer with Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing (MIDH) in addition to other persons visited several areas of Arlington Dr Ext.

The purpose of the visit is to devise a permanent solution to the terrible inconvenience and hardship close to 50 families with children experience for over two months yearly in the rainy season due to heavy flooding of their homes and yards in a low area of the division.

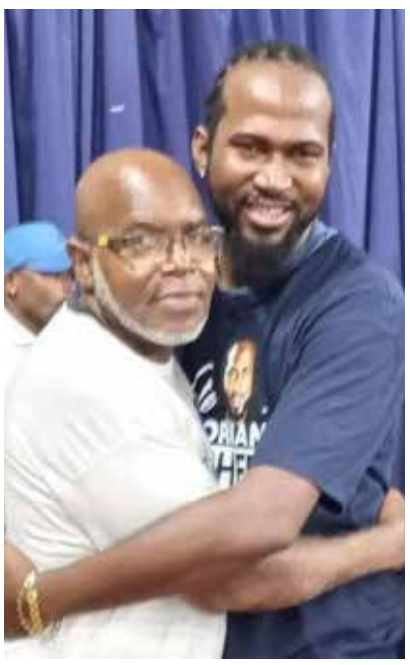
Successful Victory Party in Port Loyola

Sponsored by Hon Gilroy Usher & Councillor Dorian Usher

The victory party in Port Loyola Sunday evening March 30th to celebrate the election of Gilroy Usher, Sr. as the PUP Area Representative for the division for a second consecutive term. The night was fun-filled from start to finish for campaigners and other residents from across the division.

Many thanks to all my family members, friends, campaigners, and all others who assisted in any manner to make the event a tremendous success.

The Hon. Usher will continue working to address the needs of the people and to make life better for all Belizeans including the residents of Port.



BELIZE Social Investment Fund

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

Belize
Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRESAP)
Loan No.: 9347 BE
Project ID No.: P172592
Assignment Title: Project Coordinator
Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): BZ-SIF-480743-CS-INDV

The Government of Belize has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") is for a suitable qualified fulltime **PROJECT STAFF- PROJECT COORDINATOR** as part of the Project Implementation Unit of the CRESAP within the Belize Social Investment Fund. The Project Coordinator will provide overall leadership and management of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and will coordinate the activities to be implemented. The Project Coordinator will have the ultimate responsibility for planning, budget preparation and management and execution to achieve the Project's objectives and targets. In addition, the Project Coordinator will report to Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Enterprise (MAFSE) and the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) on overall project implementation and will act on the MAFSE behalf in his/her contacts with public and international institutions and provide overall supervision of service providers contracted by the project. The Project Coordinator will also provide regular project update to the Project Oversight Committee.

The GOB has appointed the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) as the implementing agency for the project and the BSIF is seeking to recruit an individual to fill the position of Project Coordinator.

The consultancy is expected to be for an initial period of Twenty-four (24) months commencing May 2025. The Project Coordinator will be supervised by the Executive Director of the BSIF and will report to Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Enterprise (MAFSE) and BSIF on overall project implementation.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be viewed on-line at BSIF'S website https://sifbelize.org ; at MAFSE's website https://www.agriculture.gov.bz or can be requested at the e-mail address below.

The Belize Social Investment Fund now invites eligible individuals ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (such as cover letter, Curriculum Vitae etc.)

Minimum Mandatory Requirements *(Required)
Qualifications

• Master's degree in project management, agriculture, rural development, or any other field related to the assignment.

General Experience

• Eight years' working experience in public or private sector performing tasks related to managing of projects (max 20 points)

If these minimum requirements are not met, candidates will not be considered for the process

Additional Requirements (Desirable)
Specific Experience

• At least five years' experience in implementation of projects in the agriculture field (max 30 points)

• At least five years' experience working in rural development, particularly in rural/local communities (max 20 points)

• Minimum of three (3) years' experience working with agriculture value chain particularly livestock or horticulture crops (max 15 points)

• At least five years' experience with project management for activities funded by of IFIs (e.g. World Bank, IDB, CDB, EU etc.) (max 15 points)

Minimum total points required to be considered for the assignment is 75 points.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultant method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. 0800 to 1600 hours Belize Time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **April 16th, 2025** at 13:00 hours Belize Time.

Belize Social Investment Fund
Attn: Orlando Coc, Procurement Assistant
P.O. Box 459, 4253 Hummingbird Highway, Building C, Belmopan City, Belize
Telephone +501-822-0239
Email: procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org
Cc: carlos.tun@sifbelize.org

VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN

A VIEW ON US PRESIDENT'S TARIFFS DECISION: POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON BELIZE

By Hilly Bennett

United States President, Donald Trump has unveiled his new trade tariffs, which are expected to have major economic impacts globally, including to small economies like Belize and the wider Caribbean region. Trump's Wednesday, April 25th, 'Liberation Day' tariff embodies a gamut of sweeping trade measures, in most cases a levy of 20% on imports into the US. A few of the countries like Belize (10%), are subjected to reciprocal tariffs, however, most of the nations are faced with broad-based tariff increases. Calling it an economic emergency, Trump's rationale behind the aggressive tariffs compositions was to boost domestic manufacturing. According to an AP article, he describes the global trade system that the United States helped to build after World War II saying "Our country has been looted, pillaged, raped and plundered" by other nations. While the aim is to revitalize US manufacturing and reduce trade imbalances, there are inherent economic complexities for the global economy, American consumers, and trading partners, including CARICOM countries like Belize.

Whilst the economic impacts of the Trumpian tariffs imposition will be felt across the great divide this writer will concentrate on the potential impact it will have on other CARICOM nations and Belize. These areas are:

Export Vulnerability - CARICOM countries, including Belize, that export agricultural products, seafood or manufactured goods to the US may face reduced demand due to higher tariffs or reduced consumer spending.

Investment Uncertainty - Regional industries that rely on the US Market or American foreign direct investment may be faced with increased uncertainty, which could affect business planning and job creation.

Higher Cost of Imports - with the new tariff regime increasing prices on imported US goods, CARICOM nations could experience inflationary pressures, especially in sectors like construction, retail, and energy where US goods dominate.

Strategic Opportunities - this disruption of sorts could encourage self-reliance, diversification of export markets and deeper integration within CARICOM to bolster regional trade and economic resilience.

This historic decision to hike taxes is projected to disrupt the global economic landscape to 'breaking point'. Even Americans will feel the economic pinch as essentials such as "housing, autos, clothing are expected to become costlier, and at the same time disrupting the alliance built to ensure peace and economic stability." [AP]

However, the positive side for the Jewel is encompassed in the above-mentioned Strategic Opportunities, a countermeasure of a possible exogenous shock of a looming trade war being created by Trump's vile move on the rest of the world. One of the continuing mandates of PlanBelize in PlanBelize 2.0 is the WE IN THE WORLD where the People's United Party Government (PUP), the John Briceño administration, designed a foreign policy that advanced the country's development forging new trading alliances and realigning old ones. The John Briceño government urgently negotiated trade agreements with Mexico and Central America and explored new avenues of cooperation with the Middle East, Africa and Asia with the view to opening new markets for Belize's products and investment. This is a mandate that was/is evidently visionary and indicative of the prowess of John Briceño leadership.

Understandably, the government will engage the diplomatic channels in the interest of the country and the people, through the competence of Belize's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Honorable Francis Fonseca, in dialogue with the US counterparts regarding President Trump's tariffs decision. Belize remains Right Pan Track, a nation in good hands.

PEN-FRIENDS WANTED:

Switzerland friend interested in Belize, looking for Belizean pen-friends. Please write in English or German to the following address:

Vitus Castelberg
Aspermonststr 19
CH-7000 CHUR
Switzerland (Europe)

IDB

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

Data Architect

Institution:	Ministry of Finance
Country:	Belize
Project:	Strengthening Public Expenditure Management Program – SPEM
Process ID:	BL-L1040 – P00102
Duration:	Two (2) years
Duty Station:	CITO, Belmopan (Hybrid will be considered)
Deadline:	**April 22, 2025**; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the implementation of the Project – The Strengthening Public Expenditure Management Program – SPEM (5353/OC-BL-L1038). The general objective is to promote the fiscal sustainability of Belize. The specific objective is to increase the efficiency of public resources by strengthening public financial management. The general objective of the program is to promote Belize´s foreign direct investment and trade performance.

The program is comprised of a single component with four subcomponents. The consultancy is aligned to subcomponent three (3), Technological Infrastructure, to promote a more sustainable technological infrastructure enabling processes to be more reliable and faster.

The Ministry of Finance invites eligible individuals to apply for the position of **"Data Architect"** within the Central Information Technology Office.

Further details, including the required application template and full Terms of Reference, can be obtained online at https://mof.gov.bz/procurement-opportunities/ or by scanning the QR Code below. Interested individuals must provide information demonstrating that they have met the required qualifications and possess relevant experience to perform the Services.

The selection for this contractual position will be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2350-15 and the Government of Belize policies and best practices and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the policies. The Consultants will be selected based on qualifications including a positive professional reference check.

Qualified individuals should submit one (1) pdf file in English, using the required template, via e-mail to tjoseph@ceu.mof.gov.bz or three (3) hardcopies of their application to the address below clearly indicating "**Data Architect (BL-L1038)"**- name of consultant.

The deadline for submission is no later than **April 22, 2025, by 10:00 a.m**. **(Local Belize Time).** No late submissions will be accepted.

Trudy Joseph
Procurement Specialist
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building
Tel: 501-822-2152/2158
tjoseph@.ceu.mof.gov.bz

Scan Here For More Details:

Ref: **Data Architect (BL-L1038)** - Your name

Looking out for the Environment - San Pedro – Caye Caulker

April 4, 2025 - The Honorable Minister Andre Perez, in the Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation alongside Minister of State in the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Climate Change, Hon. Ramiro Ramirez and CEO Milagro Matus held a pivotal meeting to address a pressing and long-standing environmental concern affecting both Caye Caulker and San Pedro. Also in attendance was San Pedro Town Council Mayor Walberto "Wally" Nuñez, whose insights further enriched the discussion.

The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the implementation of sustainable and efficient waste disposal strategies to ensure proper management and transportation of waste off the islands. There was a strong emphasis on modernizing waste management infrastructure and incorporating advanced sanitation solutions to promote environmental sustainability and public health.

This collaborative effort underscores our unwavering commitment to creating a cleaner, greener, and healthier future for everyone, as we strive for a more sustainable and resilient Belize. (post)

Fourth Walkway Project...

Hon. Mira in Belmopan

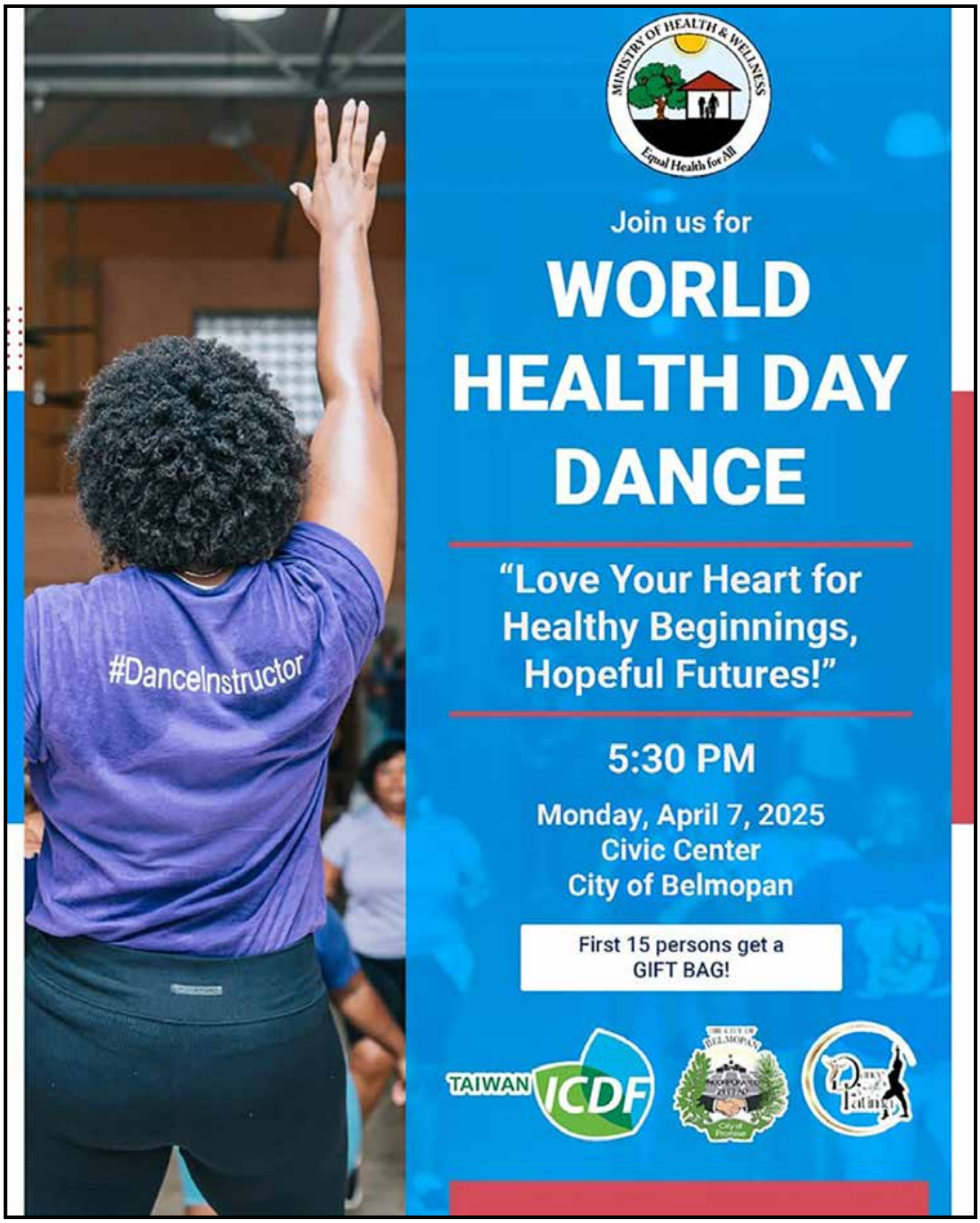
And even as the elections were happening, the work did not stop. The children of Kuxliin Ha Primary had been walking through mud and bush to reach their school.

This is the fourth Walkway project that I have done, including the walkway for Saint Martin Government School, Methodist High School and the Cemetery Road Walkway.

Our Children deserve to walk in safety in search of their education.

Nothing is more important than making it as easy as possible for them to attend school. An educated mind has endless possibilities! (Hon. Mira post)

Everyone that knows Belmopan knows the value and the uniqueness their walkways give to the capital city. Hon. Mira is ensuring that this legacy is enhanced while increasing citizen safety.



Farmer & Food Security Initiative

Silage Preparation & Molasses-Urea Block (MUB) Production

A total of 22 farmers participated in a CRESAP training session held today in More Tomorrow, where they gained valuable skills to enhance livestock nutrition and resilience. The training, led by Extension Officer Adelita Jones with support from Extension Officers Frank Padron and EO Oliva, focused on Silage Preparation and Molasses-Urea Block (MUB) Production.

Farmers were taught essential techniques for silage-making, including proper forage selection, chopping, fermentation, and storage methods. They also received hands-on experience in producing Molasses-Urea Blocks (MUBs), an affordable and efficient way to supplement livestock diets with vital nutrients.

The session emphasized reducing feed costs, improving animal health, and increasing climate adaptability in livestock management.(post)

Belize and Taiwan ICDF close the $12.3M Sheep and Goat Project

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise (MAFSE), in collaboration with the Taiwan ICDF Breeding Sheep and Goat Production and Guidance System Enhancement Project (Sheep Project Phase II), held a closing ceremony for the Taiwan ICDF Breeding Sheep and Goat Production and Guidance System Enhancement Project (Sheep Project Phase II), that was held at the National Sheep and Goat Breeding Center in Central Farm, Cayo District on March 31st, 2025.

The ceremony marked the end of a nine-year project that had a total investment of BZ $10,837,108.00 from Taiwan ICDF and another BZ $1,500.000.00 from the Government of Belize. The project contributed to the vast growth of the Sheep and Goat sub-sector in Belize, which saw a 100 percent growth over ten years. The project's achievements included the construction of a state-of-the-art National Sheep and Goat Breeding Center in Central Farm, the importation of genetic stock of sheep and goats, the training of over 900 farmers, teachers, students, and technicians, the establishment of a traceability system and the establishment of a functioning local market for sheep and goat products and by-products.

The ceremony not only marked a historical milestone of the Breeding Sheep & Goat Industry in Belize but also highlighted the country's growth within this sub-sector.

The Government of Belize expresses heartfelt gratitude to the Republic of China (Taiwan) for contributing greatly to the agriculture sector in Belize. This friendship and collaboration extend beyond the borders of Belize. The Government of Belize remains committed to the continued growth of this sub-sector for the benefit of the farmers and other stakeholders. (release)

The Ministry of Agriculture has seen plenty of innovation that has Belize with greater food security and higher level of exports. The variety of crops like coconuts, cocoa, pitahaya, soursop, pineapple, vegetables and others have truly helped to make our marketplaces radiant in color and our tables rendering more nourishment. When one can eat and be healthier then the nation is more resilient and then there is more production in general. PlanBelize 2.0 has agriculture at the forefront of national advancement and with Minister Mai at the helm success will continue with every planted seed.

Agricultural Science in Schools

On March 24-25, 2025, key stakeholders from Belize High School of Agriculture (BHSA), Bishop Martin High School, Escuela Secundaria Tecnica Mexico (ESTM), local farmers and primary school along with the Ministry of Agriculture Team, Orange Walk and Corozal Extension Officers and the STEM-U Foundation gathered to explore innovative partnerships in agricultural science.

The event featured insightful presentations from experts like Dr. Ying-Tsu Loh and Dr. Roger Thilmony, whose work in plant biotechnology and agricultural science. The objective of the collaboration is to

Continued on page 18

Hon. Kevin Bernard and the Ministry of Health & Wellness recognizes:
World Autism Awareness Day
"Advancing Neurodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."
Government of BELIZE

A New Beginning

Smart & Hand in Hand Ministries Gifting a Home to Belizean Mother

March 31, 2025 - A single mother in the Collet area of Belize City now has a place to call her own, thanks to a collaboration between SMART and Hand in Hand Ministries. In a heartfelt ceremony today, Jenay Stewart and her children received the keys to their brand-new home, marking a significant step toward a more stable and hopeful future.

For Stewart, this moment is nothing short of life changing.

"I mi always wahn have my own home, but something weh I noh haffi pay rent. Something my kids could call their own home. Soh I mean wahn whole lot to me." – Jenay Stewart, Homeowner

The initiative, led by Hand in Hand Ministries, identifies families in urgent need of housing assistance. Shannon Stuart, an Intake Social Worker with the organization, explained the selection process, emphasizing the importance of need-based assessments, interviews, and home visits to ensure that the right families receive support.

"It's always an amazing opportunity to work with an organization that builds for families in need, providing not only homes but stability, hope, and a foundation for a better life." – Shannon Stuart, Hand in Hand Ministries

This latest home, an upgrade from previous builds, includes electrical and plumbing installations, aluminium windows, and a veranda—ensuring comfort and durability for Stewart and her family.

SMART has been a resolute partner in this initiative, having now contributed to the construction of three homes in partnership with Hand in Hand Ministries. Karina Canto, Smart's PR & Communications Representative, highlighted the company's commitment to giving back.

"It is a privilege to partner with Hand in Hand Ministries as we invest in our communities. This is our third home in partnership with Hand in Hand Ministries. Outside of being a mobile service provider, we look for ways to empower people and contribute positively to Belize's economy." – Karina Canto, SMART

By supporting housing initiatives like this, Smart is not only helping families but also strengthening communities, fostering economic growth, and promoting social well-being.

This partnership between SMART and Hand in Hand Ministries serves as a powerful reminder that through collaboration, compassion, and corporate responsibility, lives can be transformed—one home at a time.

Agricultural Science in Schools

Continued from page 17

understand and enhance school's curriculum and research. The focus is improving agricultural education and expanding STEM pathways, the meeting laid the foundation for future collaborations that will benefit students, farmers, and educators alike.

The discussions centered around the STEM-U Foundation's mission to empower educators and students with hands-on biotechnology education, fostering real-world applications and industry-relevant skills. With the support of leaders from both academia and agriculture, this collaboration promises to drive the growth of agricultural science programs, helping students gain a deeper understanding of emerging technologies and career opportunities.

CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

EXAMINER-IN-CHARGE, OFF-SITE SURVEILLANCE

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Supervision Department.

The Examiner-in-Charge, Off-site Surveillance, will lead and supervise an assigned team and ensure the timely execution of the off-site surveillance programme for a portfolio of supervised institutions.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Supervise members of the off-site surveillance team.
- Assist in developing operational plans for the off-site surveillance of supervised institutions, based on a risk-based framework.
- Review assessment reports on compliance with the provisions of the Domestic Banks and Financial Institutions Act (DBFIA), International Banking Act (IBA), Credit Unions Act (CUA), Moneylenders Act (MLA), National Payment System Act (NPSA), and the Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act (MLTPA) and their accompanying Regulations and Guidelines.
- Review and process applications for the licensing and registration of banks, credit unions, money lenders, payment service providers, and other supervised institutions in accordance with the relevant licensing and registration regime.
- Prepare periodic reports for submission to the Board and other stakeholders on the financial status, performance, and regulatory status of licensed institutions.
- Review the off-site surveillance team's analyses of the assigned institutions' audited financial statements and advance recommendations for actions.
- Assist with drafting instructions to guide the development of regulations, practice directions, circulars, and guidelines to be issued under the DBFIA, IBA, CUA, MLA, and NPSA.
- Take appropriate actions to ensure that corrective actions arising from on-site examinations are addressed by licensed institutions.

The applicant should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Preferred qualification: a master's degree in accounting, banking, finance, or economics from a recognised university, with at least five years of relevant experience in the supervision and regulation of financial institutions.
- A minimum of a bachelor's degree in accounting, banking, finance, or economics from a recognised university with at least seven years of relevant experience.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Familiarity with the Central Bank of Belize Act, DBFIA, IBA, CUA, MLA, NPSA, and their accompanying Regulations and Guidelines; Strong supervisory skills; Knowledge of international best practices and standards recommended by relevant standard-setting bodies; and Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite.

COMPETENCIES

- Analytical Ability, Communication, Customer Focus, Digital Ability, Initiative, Interpersonal Relations, Organisational Ability, Problem Solving/Judgement, Decision Making.

Submit the following documents by **Wednesday, 16 April 2025:**

- Central Bank Employment Form (available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Copies of university transcripts, degrees, and any other personal certificates
- Two (2) current references (one must be from a previous employer)

Applications should be addressed to:

Manager, Human Resources Department
Central Bank of Belize
P O Box 852 or Gabourel Lane
Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: Examiner-In-Charge, Off-site Surveillance- Supervision Department

Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

The 2025 Cricket Season

Officially Opening in Bermudian Landing

The Hon. Marconi Leal, area representative of Belize Rural North and Hon. Devin Daly Minister of State in Sport were present at the Opening Ceremony. $10,000 was donated by the Area Representative Marconi Leal & $5,000 from Minister Anthony Mahler and the Ministry with responsibility for Sport. Over 20 teams are projected to participate in the tournament this year with teams mainly from the Belize River Valley.

LETTER TO THE Editor

Is Faber a Fraud?

Dear Editor,

Patrick Faber has some nerve speaking about fraud when he was deep in the belly of the UDP beast that thrived on corruption for 13 years. "The Best is Yet to Come" and "Transparency, Accountability, and Good Governance", and Imagine the Possibilities" were nothing more than empty slogans. The real UDP legacy? Bloated contracts, corruption, incompetence, mismanagement, and an electoral system where votes were bought and paid for in public.

From 2008 to 2020, Belizeans endured rampant corruption under the UDP. Roads and bridges were overpriced, while hospitals and schools were neglected and literally wild animal infested. Ministers got fat while hardworking citizens struggled.

And Patrick Faber? He was right there, enabling and probably benefiting. I say this as if you weren't, why didn't you speak out then? The people of Collet rejected you on March 12 and put you into the wilderness with the other carcasses from what was once a mass party. You are a ONE hit wonder—One HIT and you are knocked out. Senator, are spots reserved for UDP losers like Elrington, Tony, Wutless, Peyre, and You now.

Where is this Doctoral degree you have been studying for over the past 4 years plus now? Why did you abandon the people of Collet for that time as well? Don't say you love the people if you can't show and sacrifice for it every day with them.

If Faber truly wants to talk about fraud, he should start by looking in the mirror—because the real fraud may just be staring back.

Sincerely,

Independent Mind

CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

EXAMINER-IN-CHARGE, ON-SITE EXAMINATION

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Supervision Department.

The Examiner-in-Charge, On-Site Examination, will lead and coordinate the work of the on-site team in conducting examinations and assessment of the business conditions, operations, and risk management at supervised institutions.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Supervise the examination team to ensure proper execution of the on-site examination plans and activities.
- Ensure that on-site examinations are conducted in accordance with the standards and guidelines.
- Assist with preparing and executing learning and development plans for the on-site examination team members.
- Review on-site examination processes and procedures, and provide advanced recommendations for improving efficiency and effectiveness.
- Assess the profitability, financial conditions, and effectiveness of the board and management of the licensee.
- Review current developments and future directions of various risks faced by licensees and assess the effectiveness of risk management.
- Summarise the significant findings of the on-site examination for presentation during exit meetings with management of the licensees.
- Assist with coordinating and preparing for meetings with Central Bank Executive to discuss on-site examination findings.
- Preparing reports on examination findings and recommended ameliorative actions.

The applicant should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Preferred qualification: a master's degree in accounting, banking, finance, or economics from a recognised university, with at least five years of relevant experience in the supervision and regulation of financial institutions.
- A minimum of a bachelor's degree in accounting, banking, finance, or economics from a recognised university with at least seven years of relevant experience.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Familiarity with the Central Bank of Belize Act, Domestic Banks and Financial Institutions Act, International Banking Act, Credit Unions Act, Moneylenders Act, National Payment System Act, and the Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act, and their accompanying regulations; Strong supervisory skills; Knowledge of international best practices and standards recommended by relevant standard-setting bodies; and proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite.

COMPETENCIES

- Analytical Ability, Communication, Customer Focus, Digital Ability, Initiative, Interpersonal Relations, Organisational Ability, Problem Solving/Judgement, Decision Making.

Submit the following documents by **Wednesday, 16 April 2025:**

- Central Bank Employment Form (available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Copies of university transcripts, degrees, and any other personal certificates
- Two (2) current references (one must be from a previous employer)

Applications should be addressed to:

Manager, Human Resources Department
Central Bank of Belize
P O Box 852 or Gabourel Lane
Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: Examiner In Charge- On-site Examination- Supervision Department

Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

LETTER TO THE Editor

Jewel's Economy on the Rise

Dear Editor,

Belize's economy continues to show resilience and steady growth. The latest report from the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) highlights a promising trend—imports are down, and exports are on the rise. This signals a shift towards greater economic stability and self-sufficiency.

One of the biggest wins comes from our export sector, with a remarkable 12.3% increase. Our sugar industry nearly doubled its earnings, marine exports like lobster and conch saw a 77% boost, and citrus products surged by 109%. These are signs that Belizean industries are expanding and thriving on the global stage.

At the same time, imports dropped by 4%, with a significant decrease in fuel imports, suggesting greater energy efficiency and better resource management. However, increased imports of food products like orange concentrate, coffee, and milk show a growing demand for essential goods, supporting both businesses and consumers.

With exports rising and imports being managed wisely, Belize is proving that smart policies and hardworking people are driving economic progress. The future looks bright for our nation's economy, and the growth we see today is just the beginning.

Sincerely,
J Roberts

LETTER TO THE Editor

OLD Buses = Disrespect

Dear Editor,

I have written many a letter to this paper on the transport system or lack thereof a transport system in Belize.

Let me welcome the new Minister Dr. Zabaneh.

Doc…I watched for years how Bus owners lawyered up including with the grieving lawyer himself JUST so they can keep their old buses on the road. I remember a set of very loose criteria they had to follow and obviously they took the easiest way to having their old buses still on the road.

Standees on the highways is a no-no, right? But these bus owners are HAPPY to break that regulation BUT complain when then bus is not full.

IMHO if you cannot have a bus, and driver and conductor that can serve the people with respect then you do not belong on the road. Please note: OLD buses are a disrespect to the bus riders and, even worse, an insult to commuters. The prices these old buses demand is equals to PRICE GOUGING….who is checking their profit margins? Newer buses give better gas mileage.

STOP disrespecting commuters. Get lawyers to help you finance better buses not the reverse.

It is 2025, and planBelize 2.0 has an e-governance ministry that will continue the push to digitize and digitalize any aspect of government that is possible.

How about selling tickets online? Selling tickets in booths in the terminal was possible 20 years ago, why not now? My….the bus system is terribly antiquated and bus owners need to be put in check.

Honestly…I just want to be able to buy tickets and know my seat! I have full confidence in Dr. Zab. I am sure bus owners can be brought to see the POV of commuters.

Thanks,
Belizean Commuter

WORLD BANK GROUP

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

PROJECT MANAGER (1 POSITION)
PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST (1 POSITION)
AND
PROJECT FINANCE OFFICER (1 POSITION)

Institution:	Ministry of Finance
Country:	Belize
Project:	Belize Reliable and Resilient Energy System Project
Duration:	Two (2) years
Duty Station:	Ministry of Finance, Belmopan (In Office)
Deadline:	April 25, 2025; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the World Bank for the implementation of the project-Belize Reliable and Resilient Energy System Project.

The general objective of the positions is to conduct all activities related to project management, finance and procurement in accordance with the provisions of the Project, the World Bank's rules and procedures, and GOB standard public rules and regulations.

The Ministry of Finance now invites eligible individuals to apply for the positions of:

- Project Manager
- Project Finance Officer
- Procurement Specialist

Further details, including the required application template and full terms of reference, can be obtained online at https://mof.gov.bz/procurement-opportunities/ or by scanning the QR code below.

The selection for these contractual positions will be in accordance with the Individual Selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations for Investment Project Financing Borrowers July 2016, revised date: February 2025 and as well as the Government of Belize procurement policies and best practices and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the policies. The Consultants will be selected based on qualifications including a positive professional reference check.

Qualified Individuals should submit one (1) pdf file in English via e-mail to tjohnston@ceu.mof.gov.bz or three (3) hardcopies of their application to the address below clearly indicating the position being applied for "**Project Manager**, **Project Finance Officer, or Procurement Specialist"**- name of individual.

The Deadline for submission is no later than April 25, 2025, by 10:00 a.m. Local Belize Time. No late submissions will be accepted.

Therese Johnston
Procurement Specialist Assistant
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building
Tel: 501-822-2152/2158
tjohnston@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Scan Here For More Details:

Ref: **Project Manager** - Your name
Project Finance Officer- Your name
Procurement Specialist- Your name

Guatemala, Belize, and Mexico Lead the Way in Regenerative Tourism: Martsam Travel Launches New Community-Based Eco-Tours Across the Mayan World

travelandtourworld.com Article

In the world of modern travel, where cookie-cutter experiences often reign, travelers are increasingly seeking deeper connections, meaningful experiences, and authentic cultural immersion. Martsam Travel, based in Guatemala, Belize, and Mexico, is leading the charge in community-based tourism (CBT) across the Mayan world, providing transformative journeys that empower local communities while fostering a strong sense of cultural understanding and environmental sustainability.

Martsam Travel's community-based tourism experiences are not your typical tourist excursions. They are immersive, culturally rich, and rooted in the traditions of the local Indigenous communities. Whether it's participating in sacred weaving traditions in Guatemala, visiting cacao farms, or engaging in cultural exchanges in Belize, these tours provide travelers with a deep connection to the Mayan culture.

The focus is not just on showcasing historical sites but also on offering an authentic view of daily life, traditions, and sustainable practices that have been passed down through generations. Travelers have the chance to take part in activities like grinding corn with a local family, hiking with forest guardians while tracking wildlife, and learning traditional farming techniques in agro-ecology gardens.

Empowering Communities Through Tourism

The central tenet of Martsam Travel's offerings is their commitment to community empowerment. By putting local communities at the heart of the travel experience, Martsam ensures that tourism directly benefits the people who make these destinations what they are. Each experience is designed to provide local communities with direct income, job opportunities, and long-term support through Martsam's capacity-building programs.

The tours provide not just a chance for cultural exchange but also an economic lifeline for local people. The income generated through these experiences helps support the communities and their continued growth, all while allowing travelers to contribute to the conservation of the area's biodiversity.

Sustainability: The Core of Martsam Travel's Operations

Sustainability is an integral part of Martsam Travel's philosophy. The company works to minimize the environmental impact of tourism through eco-friendly initiatives. Accommodations are often eco-lodges built from natural materials, and Martsam ensures that energy- and water-saving technologies are employed throughout the journey. This commitment to sustainable practices is evident in every aspect of the tours, from reforestation efforts to workshops promoting regenerative practices rooted in ancient knowledge.

In addition to environmental sustainability, Martsam promotes social sustainability by focusing on fair wages, environmental conservation, and culturally respectful practices. The tours offer a meaningful way for travelers to engage with the environment while supporting the preservation of the unique cultures they encounter.

Regenerative Travel: Enriching Experiences for Both People and the Planet

Through regenerative travel, Martsam Travel offers experiences that go beyond traditional sustainability efforts. Travelers are invited to partici-

Continued on page 22

WORLD BANK GROUP

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST (1 POSITION)
AND
PROJECT FINANCE OFFICER (1 POSITION)

Institution:	Ministry of Finance
Country:	Belize
Project:	Belize Blue Cities and Beyond
Duration:	Two (2) years
Duty Station:	Ministry of Finance, Belmopan (In Office)
Deadline:	April 30, 2025; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the World Bank for the implementation of the project-Belize Blue Cities and Beyond.

The general objective of the positions is to conduct all activities related to finance and procurement in accordance with the provisions of the Project, the World Bank's rules and procedures, and GOB standard public rules and regulations.

The Ministry of Finance now invites eligible individuals to apply for the positions of:

- Project Finance Officer
- Procurement Specialist

Further details, including the required application template and full terms of reference, can be obtained online at https://mof.gov.bz/procurement-opportunities/ or by scanning the QR code below.

The selection for these contractual positions will be in accordance with the Individual Selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations for Investment Project Financing Borrowers July 2016, revised date: February 2025 and as well as the Government of Belize procurement policies and best practices and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the policies. The Consultants will be selected based on qualifications including a positive professional reference check.

Qualified Individuals should submit one (1) pdf file in English via e-mail to tjohnston@ceu.mof.gov.bz or three (3) hardcopies of their application to the address below clearly indicating the position being applied for "**Project Finance Officer or Procurement Specialist"-** name of individual.

The Deadline for submission is no later than April 30, 2025, by 10:00 a.m. Local Belize Time. No late submissions will be accepted.

Therese Johnston
Procurement Specialist Assistant
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building
Tel: 501-822-2152/2158
tjohnston@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Scan Here For More Details:

Ref:
Project Finance Officer- Your name
Procurement Specialist- Your name

Guatemala, Belize, and Mexico Lead the Way in Regenerative Tourism: Martsam Travel Launches New Community-Based Eco-Tours Across the Mayan World

Continued from page 21

pate in permaculture workshops, nature walks, and other activities that focus on deepening their connection to the land and its people. These activities are not just about enjoying the beauty of the region—they are about learning how to preserve and regenerate it for future generations.

The philosophy behind regenerative travel is not just about minimizing harm; it's about actively making the world a better place through responsible tourism. Martsam Travel's focus on permaculture, eco-tourism, and local engagement ensures that the communities involved in these experiences can grow and thrive long after the traveler leaves.

Martsam Travel's Commitment to Authenticity and Cultural Exchange

At the heart of Martsam's mission is a deep commitment to authenticity. The company partners with local Indigenous groups to ensure that all experiences reflect the true culture, traditions, and values of the people they represent. These are not staged or curated activities—they are authentic, daily life experiences that offer travelers a glimpse into the true spirit of the Mayan world.

The focus on cultural exchange goes beyond just providing a tour; it's about creating a space where visitors and locals can interact, learn from each other, and build lasting relationships based on mutual respect. This is a unique aspect of Martsam Travel's approach to tourism that sets it apart from more conventional travel companies.

Impact on the Travel Industry: Martsam Travel as a Model for Sustainable Tourism

Martsam Travel is not just offering a different kind of travel experience; it's setting an example for how tourism can be a force for good in the world. As the travel industry increasingly looks for ways to reduce its carbon footprint and make a positive impact on local communities, companies like Martsam Travel are leading the way in showcasing how tourism can be both sustainable and empowering.

The company's success in combining cultural exchange with environmental sustainability offers a model for others in the industry to follow. It highlights the importance of local partnerships, cultural sensitivity, and eco-friendly practices in shaping the future of travel.

Why Travelers Are Choosing Martsam Travel: A Desire for Meaningful Connections

With the rise of social media and digital travel blogs, travelers today are more informed and more selective about how and where they travel. Many are seeking experiences that go beyond the traditional vacation—ones that offer a deeper connection to the places they visit and the people who call those places home.

Martsam Travel's community-based tours offer just that. By focusing on cultural immersion, hands-on experiences, and sustainability, Martsam provides travelers with an opportunity to leave a positive footprint while exploring the richness of the Mayan world. In a travel market increasingly concerned with ethical practices and sustainability, Martsam's model is poised to attract a growing audience of conscientious travelers.

Upcoming Tours and Booking Information

Starting from April 2025, Martsam Travel will be offering a variety of community-based experiences in Guatemala, Belize, and Mexico. These tours will continue to offer travelers the chance to explore the Mayan world in ways that go beyond typical sightseeing. The company's tours will include visits to sacred weaving workshops in Guatemala, homestays in Belize's rainforests, and cultural exchanges that allow guests to experience life in the heart of the Mayan world.

For more information or to book a tour, interested travelers can visit Martsam Travel's website or contact the company directly for personalized recommendations.

Conclusion: Transforming the Travel Experience Through Community-Based Tourism

Martsam Travel's innovative approach to community-based tourism is changing the way travelers experience the world. By putting local communities at the heart of the travel experience, Martsam is not only providing unforgettable journeys but also empowering people and preserving the environment. For those looking to experience the rich culture of the Mayan world in a sustainable and meaningful way, Martsam Travel offers an unmatched opportunity to connect with the past, present, and future of this beautiful region.

Invitation for Bids

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Belize

Water Supply & Modernization Program

5754/OC-BL

Supply and Installation of Water Disinfection Equipment for BWS Network

BL-L1043-P00001

1. The *Belize Water Services Limited has received financing* from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of *Water Supply & Modernization Program* and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the Contract for *Supply and Installation of Water Disinfection Equipment for BWS Network.*
2. *Belize Water Services Limited* now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for *Purchase and Installation of Water Disinfection Equipment.*
3. The Request for Bids will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's Policies for the Procurement of Works and Goods financed by the Inter-American Development Bank, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Policies.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from *Belize Water Services Limited, Ms. Jahnina Reyes, Procurement Specialist, rce@bwsl.com.bz;* and inspect the bidding document at the address given below from *8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Belize local time.*
5. Qualifications requirements include *Goods must meet technical specifications, financials, power of attorney and other requirements.* A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically *"shall not",* be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in *English* may be requested by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before *2:00 p.m. Belize local time on May 2nd, 2025.* Electronic bidding *will not* be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at *2:15 p.m. Belize local time on May 2nd, 2025*. All bids must be accompanied by a *"Bid Security"* of *10% of bid price per lot* or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
8. The address(es) referred to above is(are):

   Ms. Jahnina Reyes,
   Procurement Specialist,
   Belize Water Services Limited,
   7 Central American Boulevard,
   Belize City, Belize C.A.
   +501-222-4757

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSULTING SERVICES

Inter-American Development Bank

Country: Belize
Project: Strengthening of Tax Administration Project (STAP)
Loan No.: 4839/OC-BL
Institution: Ministry of Finance
Abstract: Consulting Services
Deadline: April 28, 2025, at 4 p.m. (Belize local time)

The Government of Belize has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), toward the cost of the Strengthening of Tax Administration Project (STAP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") for a Consulting Firm to Design, Implement, and Execute a Countrywide Public Awareness and Marketing Campaign for Electronic Tax Document (ETD) before, during and after the rollout of the ETD. Specific objectives include the following:

1. *Design and implement a Public Awareness and Marketing Campaign*
2. *Increase Progressive Public Awareness of the ETD System*
3. *Encourage Voluntary Taxpayer Compliance*
4. *Foster Adoption and Usage of E-Invoicing services*
5. *Collaborating with ETD Consultant*

The Belize Tax Department under the Ministry of Finance now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide the following information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience in conducting large communication activities at a national and local level:

i. The firm must have a minimum of five (5) years experiences in any of the following areas: ***Development of change management campaigns,** ***Advertisement campaigns,** ***Graphic Design,** Educational campaigns, Communication planning, Strategic communication, Communications marketing, Digital content creation.
ii. Conducted at least two PR campaigns of similar type in the last 5 years (name of the assignment, description, duration, reference).
iii. Experience in organizing events (workshops, training, conferences targeting different groups: citizens, national and local public administration, mass media NGOs etc).

From the expressions of interest received, the Executing Agency will prepare a short list comprising not fewer than five (5) and not more than eight (8) eligible firms.
Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2350-15 and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the policies.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture to enhance their qualifications. For the purpose of establishing the short list, the nationality of a firm is that of the country in which it is legally incorporated or constituted and in the case of Joint Venture, the nationality of the firm appointed to represent it.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection based on the Consultant's Qualification (QCS) method set out in the Consultant Policies.

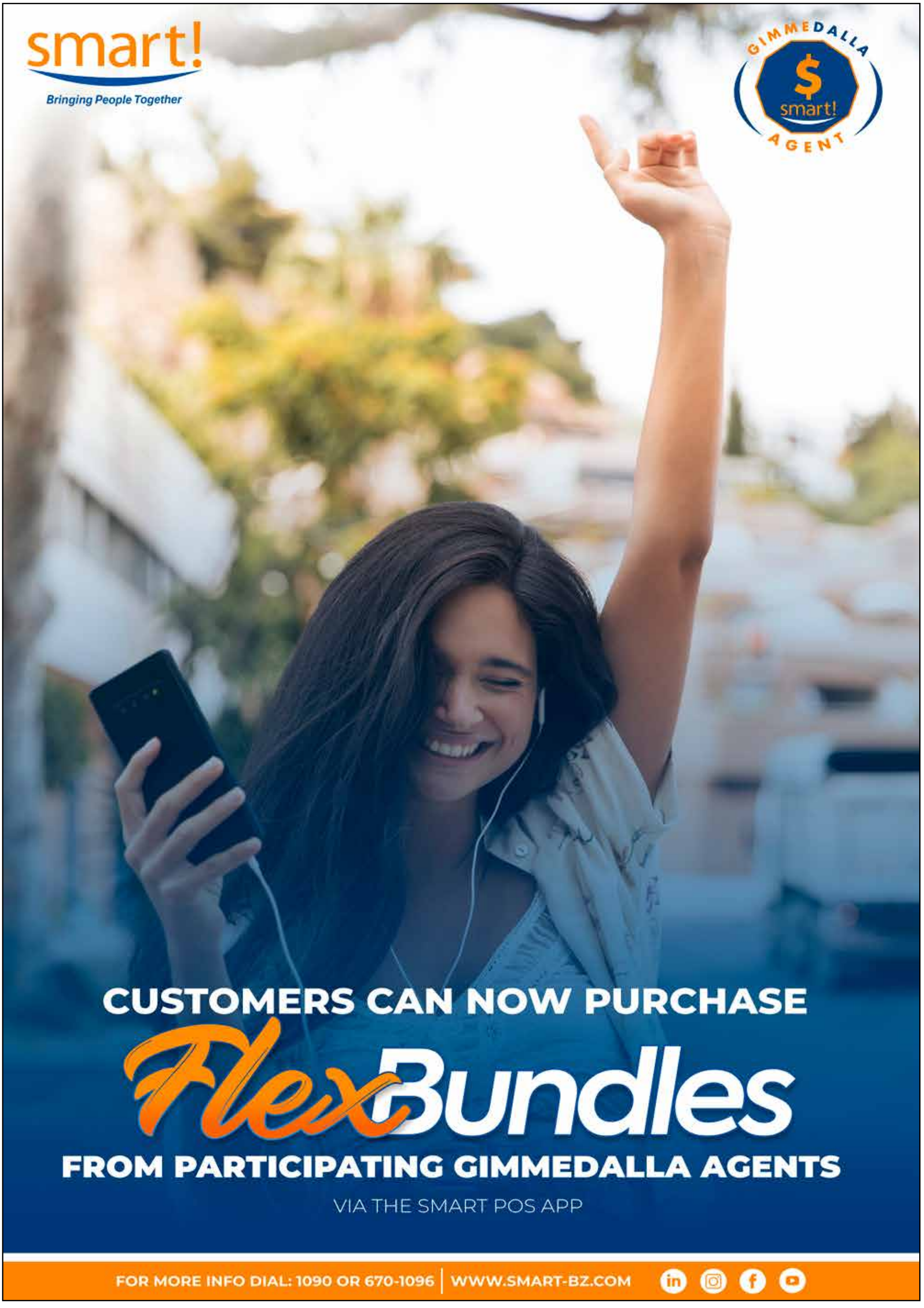
Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 8:00 to 5:00 (Monday – Thursday), and 8:00 to 4:30 (Friday).

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form before or on Monday, April 28, 2025 at 4: p.m. by email address to Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz, and david.duncan@mof.gov.bz marked **STAP- Public Awareness Campaign (ETD)** in the subject header, or submit hardcopy to the following address:

Director General
Belize Tax Service Department
Strengthening of Tax Administration Project
Eleanor Hall Building
Chetumal Boulevard, Belize City
Tel: 501-222-4956

For clarifications kindly contact:

Acting Project Coordinator
Project Executing Unit
Strengthening of Tax Administration Project
Eleanor Hall Building
Chetumal Boulevard, Belize City
Tel: 501-222-4956 (ext-421)/E-mail: David.Duncan@mof.gov.bz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